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MINUTES OF THE 90th MEETING
of the
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
held in the Conference Room of The White House
on Wednesday, May 2, 1951, at 3:30 p.m.

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MEMBERS PRESENT

The President of the United States, Presiding
The Vice President of the United States
Dean Acheson, Secretary of State
George C. Marshall, Secretary of Defense
W. Stuart Symington, Chairman, National Security Resources Board

OTHERS PRESENT

John W. Snyder, Secretary of the Treasury
Sidney J. Weinberg, for the Director of Defense Mobilization

W. Averell Harriman, Special Assistant to the President
Sidney W. Souers, Special Consultant to the President
General Omar N. Bradley, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
Lt. Gen. Walter B. Smith, Director of Central Intelligence
Jack Gorrie, Acting Chairman Designate, National Security Resources Board

SECRETARIAT

James S. Lay, Jr., Executive Secretary
S. Everett Gleason, Deputy Executive Secretary

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DECISIONS

1. THE SITUATION IN THE FAR EAST

Noted an oral briefing by the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, on the military situation in Korea.

2. UNITED STATES OBJECTIVES, POLICIES AND COURSES OF ACTION IN ASIA (TAB A)
(NSC 48/3, corrected by Memo for All Holders of NSC 48/3, dated April 27, 1951; Annex to NSC 48/3; Memo for NSC from Executive Secretary, same subject, dated May 1, 1951)

a. Discussed the draft statement of policy on the subject contained in NSC 48/3 and the views and recommendations of the Joint Chiefs of Staff with respect thereto contained in the reference memorandum of May 1, 1951.

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DSC Letter to NCT 10/27/82
By NOP NARS, Date 7/19/83

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF THE UNITED STATES

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b. Referred NSC 48/3 and the Annex to NSC 48/3 to the NSC Staff for revision in the light of the discussion at the meeting, the revision to be prepared for consideration at the next regular Council meeting on May 9, 1951.

3. NSC 26/5 (TAB B)
(NSC 26/5; Progress Report, dated April 3, 1951, by the Under Secretary of State on NSC 26/2 and NSC 26/4; Memo for NSC from Executive Secretary, same subject, dated May 1, 1951)

a. Adopted the statement of policy contained in NSC 26/5.

b. Noted the reference Progress Report by the Under Secretary of State on NSC 26/2 and NSC 26/4.

NOTE: The statement of policy contained in NSC 26/5 subsequently submitted to the President for consideration.

4. NSC STATUS OF PROJECTS (TAB C)

Noted the status of NSC projects as of April 30, 1951.

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NSC - 90th Meeting
2 May 1961

ITEM 3

UNITED STATES OBJECTIVES, POLICIES AND COURSES OF ACTION IN ASIA
(NSC 48/3)

BRIEFING

The President has requested that this item be put on the agenda for this meeting for preliminary discussion, but without final action. The President wishes to discuss the substantive issues contained in the statement of policy on Asia. It is not his intention that the final and exact wording should be decided at this meeting. The Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Joint Secretaries, and offices within the Office of the Secretary of Defense have suggested various word changes. It is not necessary to consider these textual recommendations at this meeting. During the past 3½ months a State-Defense working group has been preparing the draft statement of policy and the NSC staff study. The NSC Senior Staff considered and approved the statement of policy on 26 April, 1961.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

NSC 48/3 is a comprehensive policy statement on Asia. The geographical area covered includes that part of the Continent of Asia south of the USSR and east of Iran, together with the major off-shore islands - Japan, Ryukyus, Formosa, the Philippines, Indonesia, Ceylon, Australia and New Zealand. The substantive decisions contained in NSC 48/3 are the following:

(1) U.S. objectives, policies and actions in Asia should be related to our world-wide commitments, capabilities and objectives.

(2) The U.S. could not accept Soviet control of the off-shore islands in the Western Pacific, including Japan.

(3) The U.S. should try to avoid precipitating a general war with the USSR, particularly during the current build-up period.

(4) The principles of collective security should be applied except when U.S. unilateral action clearly outweighs other considerations.

(5) China should be denied to the USSR and the development of an independent China supported. Plans should be developed for taking military action against Communist China, if such action should later be deemed necessary.

(6) In Korea, military action should be continued until a settlement, acceptable to the United States, of the Korean problem is achieved.

(7) Formosa should be denied to any Chinese regime allied with or dominated by the USSR. Chinese forces on Formosa should be strengthened for the defense of Formosa and for such other uses as may be determined.

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(8) Japan should be assisted to contribute to the security and stability of the Far East.

(9) Effective security and economic relationships among the nations of Asia and the Pacific areas should be promoted.

VIEWS OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

The Joint Chiefs of Staff memorandum of 30 April 1951, commenting on NSC 48/3, raises one question of substance. The JCS point out that paragraph 8g on Korea is a course of action and not a policy objective and is not sufficiently comprehensive to permit the JCS to formulate necessary military policies.

VIEWS OF THE JOINT SECRETARIES

The Joint Secretaries have recommended one change of substance - the deletion of the second sentence of paragraph 1.

RECOMMENDATION

Since neither the Joint Secretaries nor the Joint Chiefs of Staff have opposed any of the objectives or courses of action in 48/3, it is recommended that you support the substantive issues outlined above. It is also recommended that you inform the Council of the substantive issue raised by the JCS and the issue raised by the Joint Secretaries, as briefed above. If the Council tentatively accepts the draft statement of policy, it is recommended that the Senior NSC Staff be directed to recast the paper in the light of the decisions which are taken by the Council.

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